

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims **1-8, 10, and 13-29** were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 10, 13-20, 22-25, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,754,414 to Naghieh *et al.* (hereinafter “Naghieh”) in view of U.S. patent 5,578,818 to Kain *et al.* (hereinafter “Kain”). In the Office Action, claims 6-8, 21, 26, and 27 were objected to, but identified as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims.

In this Response, Applicants amend claims 1, 7, 10 and 27, and cancels claims 6 and 26. As set forth below, the amendments incorporate elements from dependent claims 6, 7, 26 and 27 into base claims 1 and 10. Applicants amend claim 29 to properly depend from claim 1. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this Response, claims **1-5, 7, 8, 10, 13-25, and 27-29** are presented for examination.

35 USC § 103(a) Rejections of Claims: 1-5, 10, 13-20, 22-25, 28 and 29

In the Office Action beginning at page 2, claims 1-5, 10, 13-20, 22-25, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Naghieh in view of Kain.

Applicants have amended base claims 1 and 10 to incorporate all elements of claims 6 and 26, respectively. Applicants have similarly amended claims 7 and 27 to incorporate all the elements of claims 1 and 10, respectively. Since claims 6, 7, 26 and 27 were indicated as allowable in the Office Action at page 6 if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims, Applicants submit that amended claims 1, 7, 10 and 27 constitute allowable base claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5, 10, 13-20, 22-25, 28 and 29 under 35 USC § 103(a) to the extent the rejection is maintained against the amended claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants submit that all presently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and early indication thereof is respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (617) 248-4801.

Respectfully submitted,
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